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# Food and Nutrition

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## Lewis B. Straus is Administrator of FNS, Carol Tucker Foreman is Assistant Secretary

LEWIS B. STRAUS is the new Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service, appointed by Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland on May 6. As FNS Administrator, he is in charge of USDA's Federal-State-local food programs, including the Food Stamp, Food Distribution, National School Lunch, School Breakfast, and Special Milk Programs, as well as the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

Since 1972, Mr. Straus had been president of the National Child Nutrition Project, a nonprofit organization seeking to improve and expand Federal food programs. In that position, he created and worked with hunger task forces and managed food stamp development campaigns in several States and the District of Columbia. He also trained community-based food program advocates and directed preparation of information materials to be used to help increase participation in the Food Stamp Program.

In 1969, Mr. Straus became assistant director of planning for the New Jersey Department of Education, supervising the department's review of child nutrition programs. From 1970 until 1971, he was coordinator of New Jersey's Emergency Food Project, heading a program to increase the number of children from low-income families served free lunches in

the public schools. Mr. Straus was director of the Food Program Administration for New Jersey's Department of Education from 1971 until 1972. Simultaneously, he coordinated the New Jersey school lunch project of the Office of Economic Opportunity's Emergency Food and Medical Service. He also wrote New Jersey's mandatory school lunch act.

Born in 1934 in New York City, Mr. Straus earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, and a master's degree in city and regional planning from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. His wife, Lucy Roberts, is an editor for Scholastic magazines.

CAROL TUCKER FOREMAN, nominated by President Carter to be Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Food and Consumer Services, was confirmed by the Senate March 24 and sworn into office March 25.

Before becoming Assistant Secretary, Ms. Foreman was Executive Director of the Consumer Federation of America and the Paul Douglas Consumer Research Center. Born in Little Rock, Arkansas, she graduated from Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, and did graduate work at American University, Washington, D.C. Ms. Foreman has extensive experience in government, including service



with the U.S. Commission on Population Growth and the American Future, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and as an aide to Senator John L. McClellan and Representative James Roosevelt. From 1964 to 1966, she was director of research for the Democratic National Committee. Ms. Foreman also taught American government at William Woods College, served as a member of the advisory committee on National Growth Policy Processes, and the Secretary's Advisory Council of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Ms. Foreman has been a member of the board of the National Committee on Household Employment, a member of the D.C. Committee on the Status of Women, and president of the Women's Equity Action League.

### **JOHN C. WHITE IS THE NEW DEPUTY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE**

APPOINTED BY President Carter on March 9 and confirmed by the Senate March 15, John C. White is now the second highest official at USDA. Former Texas State commissioner of agriculture, the new deputy secretary has a long record of public service and extensive experience with agricultural programs.

Mr. White was born in Newport, Texas, on a cotton and grain farm which his parents operated on a share basis, and he currently operates a small cattle farm in central Texas. He earned a bachelor's degree in agriculture from Texas Tech University in 1946, and then became a teacher at Midwestern University in Wichita Falls, Texas. He remained there until 1950, when he resigned to run for the post of State agriculture commissioner. He was elected, and has since been re-elected 13 times.

Mr. White headed President Kennedy's task force which negotiated for the U.S. during the "chicken war" with the European Community in 1963, and later served

as a special trade representative to Greece, Vietnam, and Yugoslavia for President Johnson.

Mr. White received the Order of Merit from the Republic of France for promoting trade between France and the U.S., and the Federal Land Bank medal, authorized by Congress for his contributions to agriculture.

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### **SERIES OF PUBLIC HEARINGS HELD ON WIC PROGRAM**

A SERIES of hearings were held around the country, through the month of June, to get public reaction to the WIC program--the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

These hearings were open to all--the general public, nutrition advocacy groups, WIC participants, and State and local administrators of the WIC program. Comments were invited from all these groups, on such matters as: whether the program should strive to prevent or simply treat nutritional deficiencies; eligibility standards; program expansion; the WIC food package; and the role of nutrition education. USDA will consider these comments in planning and proposing new legislation for the program.

The schedule for the public hearings was June 6, in Portland, Oregon; June 8, in Albuquerque, New Mexico; June 13, in Minneapolis, Minnesota; June 15, in Kansas City, Missouri; June 20, in Hartford, Connecticut; June 22, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and June 27, in Birmingham, Alabama.

Many interested groups and individuals commented during the hearings. Others submitted written comments to FNS. Anyone still interested in commenting may write to the Special Supplemental Food Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.



## WIC FUNDS REALLOCATED TO 25 STATES

A total of \$17.9 million in unspent money available for the WIC program is being redistributed to 31 States and three Indian agencies. This is the third distribution in a series of quarterly reallocations. The first, in February, distributed almost \$27 million to 19 States. The second, in April, distributed \$23 million to 25 States. The next reallocation is scheduled for October.

Under the reallocation process established by FNS earlier in the year, each State has a maximum monthly expenditure level. If a State spends less than its monthly amount, the unspent money is recovered by FNS and reallocated to States reaching high expenditure levels.

## POLICY CHANGE MEANS MORE FLOUR FOR SCHOOLS

ON MAY 11, USDA ended a policy which has limited the amounts of Federally procured flour donated to States for use in school lunch programs since 1974.

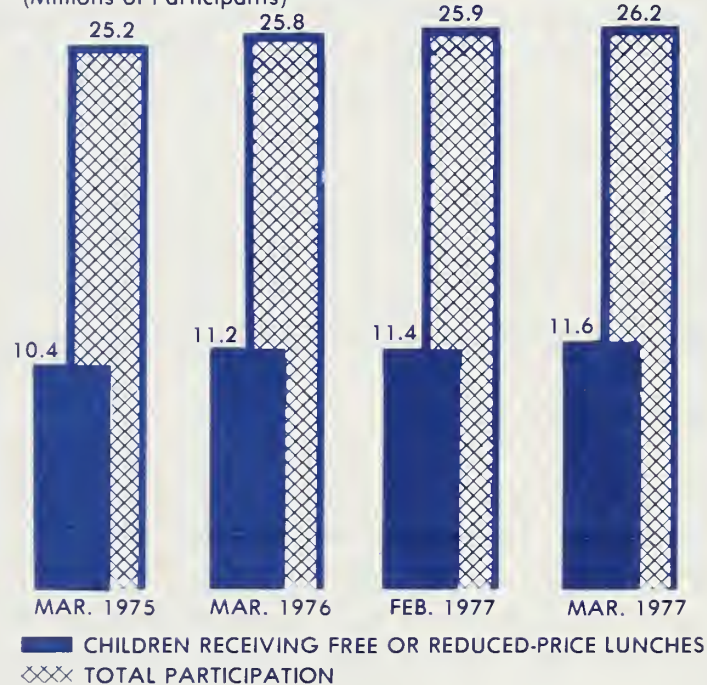
Made to enable FNS to be more responsive to school preferences, the change will permit school lunch programs to receive the additional amounts of flour they request. Schools may now order flour on the same basis as products of price-supported commodities--including dairy items, rice, peanuts, and peanut oil. These foods may be ordered through State distributing agencies in quantities that schools can use without waste, within the total amount of commodity assistance the Department provides.

For fiscal year 1977, the rate of this assistance is 11.75 cents for every school lunch served. Commodity assistance is in addition to the cash assistance--averaging 13.25 cents per meal for paid lunches, and more for free and reduced-price meals--which the Department provides through the National School Lunch Program.

FAMILY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS  
(Millions of Participants)



NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM  
(Millions of Participants)



## ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETS

THE NATIONAL ADVISORY Council on Child Nutrition met May 10 and 11 in Washington, D.C. The meetings included a review of the new Type A choice provision for senior high school students, the summer food program, training grants, surveys and studies. FNS Administrator Straus and Assistant Secretary Foreman attended the sessions.



## SUMMER PROGRAM WILL NOT SERVE FORMULATED MILK-BASED PRODUCTS

Formulated fortified milk-based products will not be used as a supplemental food in the summer food program. On May 5, Assistant Secretary Foreman announced that USDA was withdrawing its July 1976 proposal to use such products as an alternate food for the two-component supplemental food or snack served in the Summer Food Program.

In making the announcement, Ms. Foreman said, "Many of the comments received from the public on the proposed use of formulated fortified milk-based products were negative and inconclusive as to the benefits to be derived from the product." She said that a properly balanced diet of conventional foods is the preferred source of adequate nutrition, and any alternate food--such as a formulated fortified milk-based product--must be clearly advantageous to the program using it. The level of nutrition provided by the proposed alternate food is satisfactory, but conventional foods provide a comparable or higher level of nutrition when food service personnel use sound menu planning.

## FOOD STAMP ALLOTMENTS INCREASED JULY 1

Food stamp allotments and income eligibility levels, reflecting an August-to-February rise in food costs for low-income families, increased for all households on July 1. This is the first increase in allotments since January 1, 1976, when the allotment for a family of four went from \$162 to \$166. In the continental States and District of Columbia, monthly food stamp allotments for all household sizes will increase by at least \$2. The allotment for a family of four will rise from \$166 to \$170. Allotments are based on USDA's Thrifty Food Plan, which computes the cost of a nutritionally adequate diet for low-income households. Since income eligibility levels are tied to the size of

food stamp allotments, these levels also will increase in most cases. The net income limit for a family of four will increase from \$553 to \$567.

Food Stamp regulations require USDA to use either allotment-based calculations or USDA's poverty guideline, whichever are the higher, in setting income eligibility levels. The poverty guidelines are adjusted annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index. The new income limits for one- and two-person households reflect an increase in the Consumer Price Index.

Monthly net income limits for the 48 States and District of Columbia, effective July 1, are:

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Income Standards</u>
One.....	\$262
Two.....	\$344
Three.....	\$447
Four.....	\$567
Five.....	\$673
Six.....	\$807
Seven.....	\$893
Eight.....	\$1020

For each additional household member over eight, add \$127.

The Food Stamp Act of 1964 requires USDA to adjust stamp allotments twice a year to reflect food price changes as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The adjustments take effect on January 1 and July 1. July adjustments reflect the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan during February, while January changes reflect the plan's cost in the preceding August. The table on page 5 lists coupon allotments and purchase requirements by household size for the 48 States and the District of Columbia. The table is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register July 12. Tables for Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands will be separate.



# **FOOD STAMP ALLOTMENTS AND PURCHASE REQUIREMENTS (Effective July 1, 1977)**

48 States and D.C.

Number of Persons in Households:

Monthly Net Income	Number of Persons in Households:							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Monthly Coupon Allotment:							
	\$52	\$94	\$134	\$170	\$202	\$242	\$268	\$306
Monthly Purchase Requirement:								
\$ 0 to	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
20 to	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
30 to	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5
40 to	6	7	7	7	8	8	8	8
50 to 59.99	8	10	10	10	11	11	12	12
60 to 69.99	10	12	13	13	14	14	15	16
70 to 79.99	12	15	16	16	17	17	18	19
80 to 89.99	14	18	19	19	20	21	21	22
90 to 99.99	16	21	21	22	23	24	25	26
100 to 109.99	18	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
110 to 119.99	21	26	27	28	29	31	32	33
120 to 129.99	24	29	30	31	33	34	35	36
130 to 139.99	27	32	33	34	36	37	38	39
140 to 149.99	30	35	36	37	39	40	41	42
150 to 169.99	33	38	40	41	42	43	44	45
170 to 189.99	39	44	46	47	48	49	50	51
190 to 209.99	40	50	52	53	54	55	56	57
210 to 229.99	42	56	58	59	60	61	62	63
230 to 249.99	42	62	64	65	66	67	68	69
250 to 269.99	42	68	70	71	72	73	74	75
270 to 289.99		74	76	77	78	79	80	81
290 to 309.99		74	82	83	84	85	86	87
310 to 329.99		74	88	89	90	91	92	93
330 to 359.99		74	94	95	96	97	98	99
360 to 389.99			103	104	105	106	107	108
390 to 419.99			112	113	114	115	116	117
420 to 449.99			116	122	123	124	125	126
450 to 479.99				131	132	133	134	135
480 to 509.99				140	141	142	143	144
510 to 539.99				146	150	151	152	153
540 to 569.99				146	159	160	161	162
570 to 599.99					168	169	170	171
600 to 629.99					174	178	179	180
630 to 659.99					174	187	188	189
660 to 689.99					174	196	197	198
690 to 719.99						205	206	207
720 to 749.99						210	215	216
750 to 779.99						210	224	225
780 to 809.99						210	232	234
810 to 839.99							232	243
840 to 869.99							232	252
870 to 899.99							232	261
900 to 1049.99								266

For each additional household member over eight, add \$38 to the monthly coupon allotment for an eight-person household.



## **TWO FOOD STAMP REGULATION CHANGES NOW IN EFFECT**

New food stamp regulations strengthen the Department's system for monitoring grocery stores. Under the new regulations, published April 19, food retailers, wholesale grocers, and other food concerns who accept food stamps must provide USDA with annual updates of food sales information. Firms will do this by updating their original applications for authorization.

The new regulations also: prohibit expiration dates on food stamp credit slips; tighten safeguards against redemption of illegally obtained food stamps, emphasize that FNS is not liable for claims from retailers, wholesalers, or meal services for lost or stolen food stamps; and allow firms charged with violations of program regulations more time to answer the charges. They now have 10 days after receiving a letter of charges. Previously, they had to reply within 10 days of the letter's mailing date.

As a result of another change, published May 10, food stores will now be removed from the Food Stamp Program without de-

lay when a change in business operations makes them ineligible to accept food stamps. FNS will now immediately notify the firm that its authorization is being withdrawn. Previously, FNS first had to ask the firm to submit a new application. Firms will continue to have the right to administrative and judicial review when FNS withdraws their food stamp authorization.

## **FNS AND STATE STAFFS GET AID TO FLOOD VICTIMS**

Several counties in three States in Appalachia were declared eligible for emergency food stamp assistance when floods struck the area this spring. After temporary facilities were set up, a total of 10,885 Kentucky families were certified for \$1.5 million in emergency food stamps. An estimated 9,000 households were certified in Virginia and West Virginia.

Disaster relief teams from the FNS Southeast and Mid-Atlantic regional offices worked with Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia State officials to provide emergency food assistance that fed an estimated 15,000 people daily in West Virginia and Kentucky.

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## **NEW RELEASES**

- The "Summer Food Service Program for Children--Site Supervisor's Guide" (PA-1179) is a pocket-sized guide for program personnel which clarifies program responsibilities and regulations, defines the basic meal requirements, and gives tips on receiving or preparing food, serving meals to children, and completing needed records. The companion poster (PA-1133), for display at the site, is a ready reference for basic program procedures.

- "Summer Food Service Program for Children--Sponsor Handbook" (PA-1182) tells potential sponsors how to: apply for, plan and set up either a catered

or onsite program; train personnel; and maintain records. *Copies of these materials are available from the Child Nutrition Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.*

- The "Food Stamp Handbook for Volunteers" (FNS-1) is a revised handbook which suggests ways that individuals and organizations can support the food stamp program in their communities. It describes how the program operates, and lists helpful activities and available resource materials. *Copies are available from the Food Stamp Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.*



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